FD-350 (Rev. 7-10-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ACQUAINTED WITH FERRIE

'Mystery Witness' Russo Republican

Perry Raymond Russo, identified today as the "mystery informer" in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's case against Clay L. Shaw, is a Republican and a sports enthusiast.

Russo is a 25-year-old insurance agent from Baton Rouge and a former student at Loyola University here. His name was linked to the case after the death of David William Ferrie on Feb. 22.

He told the district attorney's office he had known Ferrie in New Orleans in the period before President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963.

FERRIE WAS found dead, apparently of natural causes, after being questioned by Garrison's investigators.

Russo's parents live here at 4607 Elysian Fields. He is employed by the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

A 1959 graduate of McDonogh Senior High, Russo coached and played baseball in the Roehm Park Baseball League until last summer, and also the New Orleans Negro League which played its games at Pontchartrain and Roehm Parks.

RUSSO COACHED the Young Republicans—a team he formed and managed to have sponsored by the local Republican organization.

When Barry Goldwater was running for president in 1964, Russo was active in campaigning for him. His Republican contracts dated from this period.

Another baseball team, Russo's All-Stars, captured the city Negro League championship in 1966. Russo coached and played outfield for the white team in the Negro league.

RUSSO WAS a Tulane University student at one time, but transferred to Loyola and graduated in 1964.

He umpired junior high school baseball games in 1965, and was a member of the Professional Umpires Association.

A classmate of Russo's said that while he campaigned for Goldwater, he was more of a loyal Republican than an extreme conservative, and would have worked for a more liberal candidate had one been nominated.

THE CLASSMATE said Russo was intelligent but moody, and had a habit of saying "hello" to friends without calling them by name.

Russo told investigators he met Ferrie through a friend who was a member of the Civil Air Patrol. The friend told Russo he was training with Ferrie in jungle warfare "to help bring about more democratic government."

The friend's family had contacted Russo in an effort "to break Ferrie's hold on their son."

RUSSO SHOWED up for questioning March 1 at Garrison's office with a young girl who was not identified. He spent a half-hour in the office. Asked what was said, he answered:

"I can't comment on that."

He reportedly was questioned by the DA's office on other occasions, but was never subpenaed.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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New Orleans States-Item

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